

Technical Advisory Committee, Project Identification Committee

Meeting Notes 3/23/2021 Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Committee members:

1. Chair: Lewis Lawrence/Curtis Smith - MPPDC
2. Vice Chair: Carol Considine - ICAR
3. Jill Bieri - TNC
4. Alec Brebner - Crater PDC
5. Russ Baxter – DCR
6. Shawn Crumlish – VRA
7. Sarah Stewart - PlanRVA
8. Traci Munyan DHCD
9. Normand Goulet - NVRC
10. Dr. Mark Luckenbach - VIMS
11. Georgie Marquez - Andre Marquez Architects

Commonwealth of Virginia:

1. Ann Phillips – Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection
2. Nick Meade - VCZM
3. Shepard Moon – VCZM
4. Matt Dalan - DCR

Other:

1. Brian Batten – Dewberry
2. Rahul Parab - Dewberry
3. Benjamin McFarlane - HRPDC
4. Keith Cannady - HRPDC
5. Kyle Spencer – City of Norfolk
6. Matt Dalan
7. Natalie Snider
8. Toni Utterback – City of Virginia Beach
9. Skip Stiles – Wetlands Watch
10. Whitney Katchmark - HRPDC
11. Debra Bryan

Project ID Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Lewie Lawrence, subcommittee chair, opened the meeting with the following elements:
 - a. Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - b. Certification of the meeting: Meeting requirements for Commonwealth public meetings were read.
2. Shep Moon performed a roll call for a quorum and confirmed that a quorum was present.

3. Lewie Lawrence read the Motion declaring a public emergency.
 - a. Georgie Marquez made a Motion to declare a public emergency.
 - b. Norm Goulet seconded the Motion
 - c. Shep Moon performed a role call and the vote to support the Motion was unanimous.
4. Lewie Lawrence reviewed meeting conduct, including the following points:
 - a. All participants in the meeting have been muted. Only committee and subcommittee members will be unmuted to participate.
 - b. Public attendees can ask questions in the chat, which will be answered as time allows.
 - c. Public comment will be allowed at the end of the meeting.
5. New committee members were provided an opportunity to introduce themselves. No new committee members were in attendance.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Lewie Lawrence led a review of running project identification discussions to date:
 - Project Identification Categories –
 - Lewie Lawrence discussed a summary of Project Identification categories developed from multiple discussions including: Project Identification Committee meeting (2/23/2021), TAC Committee meetings, and the Coastal Resilience Consultant Review and Selection Committee meetings. See Excel file labeled Meeting #1 – Thoughts about projects.
 - There was discussion related to private property owners and landscape scale projects and the need for their inclusion in project identification. It appears that this is handled differently in Louisiana and Texas and it was noted that the funding planning for these types of projects might be different. Other considerations discussed for private projects included: a cost threshold, municipality approval to show importance, and possible low income set asides.
 - It was noted that there is current work being done at the PDC level to identify projects through Technical Assistance grants from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to fund resilience work.
 - Limitations of projects based on funding –
 - There was a brief discussion of whether projects would be excluded or limited based on their funding source. It was agreed that any funding source was viable for projects and the goal would be to combine funding sources when possible.
 - It was noted that the Project Prioritization process would help identify projects that meet highest priority need, which would consider criticality and vulnerability, and that small scale projects would likely be easier to complete sooner.
 - “False hope projects” –

- There was a discussion of whether projects that are likely not to be funded should be included in project identification. It was agreed that any project could be considered but that ultimately the Project Prioritization Committee will decide which projects are put forward for funding and which projects are not.
- It was noted that the Commonwealth will not prohibit municipalities from moving forward with any projects if they have funding or can get funding outside of the Commonwealth Coastal Resilience Planning Process.
- Social Vulnerability –
 - The definition of social vulnerability was discussed, including how it is defined (scale and target) and the importance of this related to different funding sources. Lewie Lawrence reviewed examples related to lower Guinea in Gloucester County. While this is a recognized low-income fishing community, due to its location in proximity to high value coastal real estate, it does not always meet low-income community qualification criteria. For example, if census tract level data is used, it does not meet criteria for a socially vulnerable community but if you use census block level data, it does. The following tools and their different social vulnerability ratings for this same area were quickly reviewed: CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), EPA Environmental Justice Viewer (EJSCREEN), VIMS Social Index, and PolicyMap.
 - It was noted that the lowest confining geographic unit for rural areas needs to be at the block level for accurate results. This is likely a greater problem in rural areas than urban areas because urban areas can use smaller geographic units.
 - There was also a discussion of the FEMA Bric funding call and the requirement that low-income designations be done at the county level, which will exclude virtually all rural coastal communities in Virginia. This is especially pertinent for funding under the small and impoverished communities’ headings which provide additional grant match relief. Lewie Lawrence shared his methodology to qualify as a low-income community to meet FEMA Bric funding requirements, which was not approved as valid.
 - The committee found this discussion and information valuable. It was noted that there may be some policy change needed at the state level to identify communities at need. This could be addressed as policy in the Coastal Master Plan when it is adopted.
- b. Lewie Lawrence asked if any additional old business needed to be discussed. None was identified.

7. New Business:

- a. Project Categories –

- Lewis Lawrence discussed the Texas and Louisiana Project categories and asked the committee if they agreed that this might be a starting point for consideration in identification of project categories for Virginia. There was consensus in the committee that this is a path forward. The committee agreed to start with all categories from both and see if we can then develop a scheme for the Commonwealth. It was noted that we may want to develop smaller categories under the green vs. gray projects and under the private vs. public projects. Ann Phillips noted that there was previous work completed in this area by the Governor's office, which she will share with the committee.
 - There was a brief discussion on how projects will be incorporated into a state data base. Ann Phillips noted that Dewberry, the consultant for the Coastal Master Plan, may want to provide input on this based on work they have previously completed. She noted that Dewberry will be able to take a more active role soon in these discussions following their formal kick off meeting which is schedule for this afternoon.
8. Lewie asked if there was any public comment. It was noted that no one had requested public comment and that there were no questions in the chat.
 9. The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021 at 10:00 am.
 10. Lewie Lawrence called for a motion for the meeting to adjourn.
 - a. Motion- Alec Brebner
 - b. Second- Shawn Crumlish
 - c. Lewie Lawrence asked for a voice vote which unanimously supported the Motion to adjourn.